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[91a]

No. 14,389 號政拾捌百叁千肆萬壹第 日捌十式月叁年十壹緒光 HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 1904. 陸拜禮 號肆十月五年肆零百九千壹英港香 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

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[a1891-5]

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[a48]

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[224]

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUEX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 14TH MAY, 1904

A somewhat new light is thrown upon the Tibet Mission's difficulties by the telegram coming through Reuters' agency and derived ultimately from a despatch of the Times representative at Gyantse. Hitherto, though the responsibility for delay in the negotiations has been divided between the Chinese and the Tibetans in proportion difficult to make out accurately, the only actual treachery, as exhibited in the attack at Guru on the 31st March, was due to the Tibetan commander who lost his life on that occasion. After the severe lesson administered by the British Indian force at Guru an immediate effect was apparently produced, not only on the Tibetans but also upon the Chinese Commissioner Ma, who wrote to Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND from Lhasa, saying that the Dalai Lama was wholly to blame for their not having met, as he had refused to provide him (Ma) with transport; he himself was anxious to meet the British representative. This seemed a fairly reasonable excuse to anyone acquainted with the secular obstruction by Lhasa of all attempts to penetrate Tibet from India. Probably Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND accepted the explanation and, while pressing on to Gyantse, looked forward to a meeting with China's delegate. Gyantse was reached in the middle of April, after slight opposition at the "Red Idol Gorge," and the Mission then settled down for another period of waiting. No Chinese Commissioner appeared, and all the news

to be had on the subject resolved itself into futile questions in Parliament, to which the Ministerial answers were commendably brief and reticent. Then, on the 5th May, a sudden attack was again made, by about 800 Tibetans. Happily it did not catch the Mission unawares, and the loss on our side was only two wounded as against 250 Tibetans reported killed. But now a fact is revealed in connection with this attack, on the authority of the Times correspondent at Gyantse, which puts a most serious aspect on the affair. He avers that Commissioner MA deliberately concealed a Tibetan plot to attack the Mission—and was therefore equally guilty of treachery with the Tibetans. Moreover, Mr. PARR, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, who is the Englishman representing the Chinese Government jointly with MA, had a narrow escape from death, while all his servants were killed. MA, in fact, seems to have most grossly and outrageously violated his duties and has made instant removal imperative. Needless to say, the work of the Mission will be once more grievously delayed. We do not see that anything remains but to proceed to Lhasa after reinforcements have reached Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND. The remarks of the Allahabad Pioneer, quoted by us three days ago, appear absolutely correct. Our contemporary claims that it would be the greatest possible mistake to stop short at Gyantse. Much money has been spent and much blood shed, and to ensure any commensurate return it is necessary that some permanent impression should be produced on the minds of the Tibetans. An entry to Lhasa would certainly be vividly remembered by them for decades, whereas the recollection of the defeats by the present Mission will be forgotten as quickly as that of their expulsion from Sikkim. "Lhasa, therefore, beckons, and Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND should not only go there, but his entry should be made with as much show as possible"—including, the Pioneer suggests, a British Infantry regiment with its red uniform and two or three smart Indian regiments. There is wisdom in this, if it is climatically practicable, for the larger the British force the less likelihood of fighting. The smallness of the Mission cannot but have encouraged the vastly more numerous Tibetans to make their mad attacks. Great Britain and India desire the Tibetan difficulties settled as quickly as possible. A rapid and yet duly protected advance on Lhasa promises the quickest settlement. It is Lhasa all along, with the vague support of China behind the Lamas, which has flouted every attempted advance from India and disregarded every engagement. Even as early as WARREN HASTINGS's time it was the Dalai Lama who opposed BOGLE, sent to arrange a commercial treaty. The Teshu Lama of Shigatse, spiritually superior but temporally inferior to the Dalai Lama, was friendly then, and this attitude seems to have remained to the present day. But the Dalai Lama and the Lhasa hierarchy have kept themselves firmly seated on the shoulders of the Tibetan people, with the support of Peking and by aid of the tea monopoly as much as anything. It is not unnatural that they should obstruct Indian advances, which threaten their supremacy gravely. With their prestige dissipated by the arrival of a foreign force at Lhasa, and with Indian tea on the Tibetan market, to what are the Lhasa Lamas to look? With regard to the tea question, we may recall some words of Mr. T. T. COOPER, who in 1868 tried unsuccessfully to cross into Tibet over the Szechuen frontier, armed with the Viceroy's pass. He wrote "The whole business in life of the Tibetans seems to be to procure a sufficiency of tea; and it is no cheap luxury; for the Lamas, keeping in their hands the retail as the Chinese do the wholesale trade, reduce the people by this means to absolute dependence, exacting in return for the precious article labour and produce. Grain, yaks, sheep, horses, and even children, are given to the rapacious priesthood in 'payment for tea.' The same was true as early as the days of Huc, and the same is true now, and it is only at Lhasa itself that any chance of changing this state of affairs seems possible. With regard to the justification of the British Indian enterprise in Tibet, no one can deny that Tibet has made promises of certain trading facilities which after a decade of years remain unfulfilled. In the meantime Lhasa, not ignorant of China's decline, has been coquetting with S. Petersburg—a fact which, it must be admitted, has had some influence in quickening the action of British diplomacy. Considering the enormous importance of our frontier-position in India, who can say that this action is unwarrantable?

9 more plague cases were reported up to noon yesterday, all Chinese, and all but one fatal. Four bodies were found "dumped."

We are requested to state that owing to the alterations in progress in the Hongkong Jockey Club's enclosure the Hongkong Gymkhana Club will hold no meeting this month.

On the 10th of last month 400 men of the Hampshire Regiment at Aden were ill with fever and unfit for duty, out of a total strength of 495. They had been on escort duty with the Hinterland Commission.

To-morrow, at St. Joseph's College, in Robinson Road, the ceremony will take place of the unveiling of the statue of St. John Baptist de la Salle. Monsignor Guili will perform the unveiling at 8.30 p.m., numerous guests having been invited to be present then and at a reception afterwards. The statue was designed and cast in France.

A recent visitor to Hongkong, Mr. Suttor, Commercial Agent for New South Wales in the East, in a report to the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, says that the Hongkong Dairy Farm will probably be customers for income tax for feeding dairy cows at the Hongkong Farm. Mr. Suttor advises that c.i.f. quotations and small samples should be forwarded to Hongkong, as well as quotations for bran or any fodder suitable for dairying stock.

After an inspection of the various corps of Volunteers in and about Calcutta on the morning of March 22, the total muster being only about a thousand rifles, Lord Kitchener made the following pointed remarks:—"There are too few of you. A great city like Calcutta ought to turn out more Volunteers than are now on your rolls. I hold that in India every Englishman by birth or descent owes it as a duty to his country to become an efficient Volunteer, and I cannot, therefore, help on this occasion expressing my disappointment at finding this duty disregarded."

The death was announced at the end of April of Sir Henry Thompson, Bart., the eminent surgeon, aged 83 years. To the general public Sir Henry Thompson was best known by his works on diet, all of which had a large circulation. Food and Feeding going through 12 editions, and Diet in Relation to Age and Activity attaining no less than 18 editions. A theological work, The Unknown God, had also some vogue. By members of his profession Sir Henry Thompson was recognised as an authority, and as an operating surgeon he was most successful. In 1883 he performed a difficult operation on Leopold I., King of the Belgians. For his success in that undertaking he was appointed Surgeon Extraordinary to his Majesty, and on that King's death he was appointed to the same office with the present King. Dr. Thompson was knighted in 1867, and was created a baronet in 1899.

As we have already heard, Mr. Watson has succeeded in forming a Labour Ministry for the Australian Commonwealth. The different portfolios have been awarded as follows:—Prime Minister and Treasurer, Mr. J. C. Watson (Bland, N.S.W.); Minister of External Affairs, Mr. W. M. Hughes (West Sydney, N.S.W.); Attorney-General, Mr. H. B. Higgins, K.C. (N. Melbourne), the only non-Labour man; Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. E. L. Batchelor (Boothby, S.A.); Minister of Trade and Customs, Mr. A. Fisher (Wide Bay, Q.); Minister of Defence, Mr. A. Dawson (Senator, Q.); Postmaster-General, Mr. Hugh Mahon (Coolgardie, W.A.); Vice-President of the Executive Council, The Hon. G. McGregor (S. Australia).

Not all the Liberal M.P.s have joined the "slavery" cry with reference to Chinese labour in South Africa. For instance, Mr. A. B. Markham, in a letter to his constituents of Mansfield Division of Nottinghamshire, offers to resign his seat on account of his opinion regarding Chinese labour for the Rand. Mr. Markham states that he entirely disagrees with the Liberals on this question. His views have been formed by practical knowledge of mining in the Transvaal extending over 14 years. The workers in Great Britain have been misled into imagining that Chinese labour is intended to displace white labour. Unless he is accorded a free hand by an overwhelming majority Mr. Markham intimates that his resignation will be final.

The ideal emergency food for the American soldier has at last been found, says a despatch from Washington. Years of study and experiment have evolved it, and the War Department has now officially adopted it. The food consists of a mixture of fresh beef, potatoes, and onions, evaporated to dryness and ground to powder. It is put up in an airtight tin can, weighing one pound. The can also contains salt and pepper in tiny papers, and three small cakes of chocolate. The dry mixture is divided into three parts, wrapped in waxed paper, and intended for three meals. Heated with water, the food becomes a palatable and nourishing dish, while a cake of the chocolate makes a good drink to go with it. The food is intended specially for use by the American army on active service in war time. The mixture in a can holds but 6 per cent. of water, and occupies only 25 cubic inches. According to Commissary General Weston, a soldier can live without loss of strength and health for ten days on one of these tins a day. The War Department is also making food tins with an inner compartment filled with unslaked lime. When it is desired to heat the tin the outer covering is punctured, water poured in, and in a few minutes the contents of the can are steaming hot. This method is also used for heating coffee.

Four Chinese students, all sons of wealthy parents, have been drowned while boating off Vancouver, British Columbia.

According to the last Port Darwin paper, bubonic plague is spreading in Sydney, and several fresh cases are reported from widely scattered localities.

Telegraphic printing has been much "in the air" of late. Now it seems that the British and German post offices are submitting the system of printing by telegraphy invented by Mr. Donald Murray, of Sydney, to exhaustive practical tests. In Great Britain the tests will be made between London and Edinburgh, and in Germany between Berlin and Emden.

The New York Herald states that Lieutenant-General Altvater, who was acting Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Artillery, has disappeared. It is supposed that he committed suicide. Thinking that war between Russia and Japan was improbable, he disobeyed orders by sending to the Polish frontier, instead of to the Far East, seven batteries of light mountain artillery, which were supplied to Russia by France.

Vice-Admiral Bienaimé, Naval Commander-in-Chief at Tonkin, and Rear-Admiral Ravel, of the same station, have been dismissed owing to indiscretions on their part during the campaign against the French Minister for Marine, M. Camille Pelletan. M. Pelletan was charged with delay in the completion of warships and with reducing crews. The matter was fought out in the French Chamber of Deputies, and ended in a victory for the Government.

Disatisfaction is expressed on the part of British manufacturers with regard to the passing of the Japanese Government Tobacco Monopoly Bill. It is stated that, in spite of the Japanese Foreign Secretary's official assurances to Lord Lansdowne that manufacturers would be given compensation to the extent of three years' profits, the Bill, as passed, gives British investors the equivalent of only one year's profits. It is understood that Lord Lansdowne will be asked to intervene again.

We see in our Portuguese contemporary O Patriota that Sr. Pedro Nolasco da Silva, the president of the Leal Senado of Macao, left by the Empress of Japan last Wednesday for Shanghai as the legal representative of a syndicate formed in Macao for the construction of a Sino-Portuguese railway. Sr. Nolasco da Silva is going north to try to obtain the concession from the Chinese Government, and his efforts will be supported by H. E. Senhor Conselheiro Castello Branco, the Portuguese Minister, who is now in Shanghai.

Some more details about the case of Colonel Marchand are given in telegrams to the Australian papers. It appears that Lieutenant-Colonel Marchand was not included in the mission formed to follow the movements of General Kuropatkin's armies in Manchuria. He thereupon resigned, and sent letters to the newspapers explaining his position. It is rumoured that the French Cabinet was unwilling that Colonel Marchand should meet and fraternise with Prince Louis Bonaparte, who is a Major-General in the Russian army. The Cabinet has ordered that Colonel Marchand be punished by being kept in confinement for a month for writing to the newspapers, and at the end of that period his resignation will be accepted.

Mr. T. Cowen, special correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle, writing in February on "China's Last Chance," says:—"The Mings, descendants of the former Emperors, of pure Chinese blood, were not all exterminated by the Manchus, and if one appeared now, with good backing from the secret societies and a prospect of foreign neutrality, the Manchus would not have a vestige of a chance. Why they have not appeared is a puzzle; I have been trying to get to the bottom of it. One undoubted scion of the Ming family is contentedly living the life of a merchant in a certain big city; another is a farmer, and several are skilled artisans in Canton. Apparently they no more think of the Throne than ascians of the houses of Stuart, or O'Brien, or Llewellyn do in the British Isles. But one never knows in the Orient. The peaceful dealer in gold-leaf, in the Shop of Everlasting Benevolence, may be head-centre of the greatest revolutionary society in the world, only waiting his chance. I am told there might be a new Emperor proclaimed any day."

By kind permission of Lt.-Col. Iremonger and officers, the Band of the 93rd Burma Infantry will play at the Hongkong Hotel from 8 to 9.30 p.m. to-night:—
March..... "The Uhlan's Call" Ellenberg
Overture..... Stradella Flotow
Selection..... Morris England German
Song..... "The Caterpillar and the Rose" Carey
Selection..... Kitty Grey Monckton
Waltz..... "Beniamin" Gungl
Cake Walk..... "Jolly Negroes" Berger
"God Save the King"

MENU.
Hors D'Oeuvres
Anchoovy Canapés.
SOUP.
Champignon.
FISH.
Boiled Salmon à la Régence.
ENTREES.
Charcuterie of Pigeons
Lamb Cutlets à la Nelson
Macaroni Croquettes and Tomatoes.
CURI.
Brazilian.
ROAST.
Roast Ribs of Beef and Horseradish
Roast Capon and Bacon
Boiled Corned Brisket of Beef
Cold Veal and Ham Pie and Beet Root Salad.
SWEETS.
Baked Chestnut Custard Pudding
Glace à la Nesselrode and Cake
Fresh Peach Tart.
Dessert.
Coffee.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS' SERVICE.

THE WAR—JAPANESE SUCCESS IN LIAOTUNG.

LONDON, 11th May.
The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Shanhaiwan wires that three divisions of the Second Japanese Army Corps, which were being pushed up quickly to co-operate with General Karoki's force, have defeated the Russians with great loss at Wafangtung. The Japanese artillery was splendidly handled.

THE ALLEGED RAILWAY RESTORATION.

LONDON, 11th May.
It is stated in St. Petersburg that the restoration of the communication with Port Arthur was due to General Stoessel's having successfully engaged the enemy. The General Staff have no confirmation of this.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

LONDON, 11th May.
Russia has declared cotton contraband of war, because it is used in the manufacture of explosives.

THE JAPANESE LOAN.

LONDON, 11th May.
The Japanese loan of £5,000,000 was issued to-day at 93. Viscount Hayashi appeared on the floor of the Stock Exchange as the prospectuses were distributed and received a great ovation. The premium rose to 31.

THE NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

LONDON, 11th May.
Foreign lenders for the Russian loan are arriving in Paris. The form of issue is still undecided, but will probably be a first issue of £24,000,000, and later of £8,000,000.

SALE OF CHILEAN CRUISERS.

LONDON, 11th May.
The Chilean cruisers Esmeralda and Chacabuco have been sold to a New York firm.

BRITISH INTERESTS AT NEWCHOWANG.

LONDON, 11th May.
Earl Percy said in the House of Commons that the British Consul at Newchwang had not requested that a gunboat be sent to the port to protect British interests, which Britain had requested the belligerents to safeguard.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.—CHINESE TREACHERY

LONDON, 11th May.
The Times correspondent at Gyantse wires that the Chinese Commissioner Ma deliberately concealed the Tibetan plot to attack the British Mission on the 5th inst. Mr. Parr, of the Chinese Customs, who is Joint Commissioner with Ma, narrowly escaped death; all his servants were butchered.

HONGKONG FIRE BRIGADE.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.
Yesterday afternoon there was a parade of the Police Force at the Central Station when the Governor's award was presented to Sergeant Mortimer O'Sullivan for proficiency during the past year. H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., was accompanied by Mrs. May, Mr. R. A. B. Ponsbury, Private Secretary to H.E., Captain Hodgson, A.D.C., and a party from Government House. His Excellency inspected the men, in company with Mr. F. J. Bodeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. Ponsbury, Captain Hodgson, and Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse. Subsequently Sergeant O'Sullivan was called forward, and H. E. addressed a few congratulatory words to him on the proficiency he had shown. He said it gave him the more pleasure to note that he was the successful candidate for the year as he was a countryman of his own, and had proved himself a credit to the force, and a worthy member of the community. He had, H.E. added, much pleasure in handing Sergeant O'Sullivan a handsome gold watch. His Excellency then referred to the excellent work done generally, and especially in the late Fire Brigade contest. He called upon the successful competitors and presented them each with a handsome gold watch-charm, while he congratulated Sergeant R. Macdonald on the work of the Chinese members of the Brigade, for which he was mainly responsible. H.E. stated that the Kowloon Godown Company, in recognition of the work done by the Brigade at the last fires, had offered a beautiful shield to be competed for at the annual contests of the Fire Brigade. He congratulated Sergeant John Grant for the proficiency shown by his section, which had placed it at the head at this year's contest.

BASEBALL.

U.S.S. "CALLAO" V. U.S.S. "MONTEREY."
Baseball, the most popular game at Manila, may in the near future form a part of Hongkong's sport. We understand that the U.S.S. Callao is to play the U.S.S. Monterey at Happy Valley shortly, and that civilian Americans will endeavour to get up a team to challenge the winner.

NAVAL NOTES.

THE "ADAMANTOR."

The Portuguese cruiser Adamantor has come out of dock.

THE AUSTRALIAN STATION.

Commander H. Du Cane Luard has commissioned H.M. sloop Cadmus, 1070 tons, for the Australian station. The Cadmus is a sister vessel to the Clito, already on the Australian station.

THE SUNKEN SUBMARINE.

Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at Bath on the 26th ult., said that the recovery of the remains of the optical tube, which had marks upon it, and part of the conning-tower of the submarine torpedo-boat A1 showed what should have been done. Had she dived directly she detected the Bismarck Castle three seconds would have taken her underneath the liner.

SUBMARINES FOR CHINA WATERS.

The news that it has been found impossible to move the submarines Proteus and Lynx by rail from Cherbourg to Tonkin is of interest, as these are the smallest craft of their type in the French navy, and it may be taken for granted that if they cannot be transferred by rail no others can be. The Proteus is to convey them direct to the Far East, where they will be stationed probably at Saigon. They do not seem very well chosen for this work, as the rivers of French Indo-China have rapid currents, and these little vessels can only make at the best eight knots. Their radius of action is small, and according to Le Yacht, they may be hampered by the mudiness of the waters in which they will have to operate. Four more submarines of the same type will probably be sent out, if the first two arrive without misadventure.

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR FUND.

(1) Providing additional comforts in Hospital treating all sick and wounded from the War.
(2) In aid of the families of Japanese killed in the War.

Mr. J. R. M. Smith, the Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions—for either (or both) of the above objects, as indicated on the subscription lists.

Already acknowledged £25,842.25
H.E. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G. 100
R. Ponsbury 25
Boys, Queen's College 197.50
English Staff, Queen's College 110
Chinese Staff, Queen's College 37.50
Hongkong Daily Press 100
£26,404.25

FOOCHOW NOTES.

We take the following from the Foochow Echo of the 7th inst.:

On the 3rd inst., by kind permission of the Club Committee, a most successful entertainment was given under the auspices of the "Musical Society."

On the 2nd Their Excellencies Tsung-chen, Tartar General of this province, and Li-hsing-jui, Viceroy of Min-che, gave a large banquet to the foreign officials of the port. The guests were received in the spacious drawing-rooms of the Board of Foreign Affairs office at Nantai, and after a few minutes of general conversation were escorted to the large dining-rooms on the upper floor, where an elaborate feast had been prepared. Several speeches were made.

The final in the Club billiard handicap for 200 up was won by Mr. J. W. Odell (+20), the runner-up being Mr. J. R. Putnam (+10). The competition for the Monthly Cup of the Gun Club ended in a win for Mr. Martzinkovich with a score of 19.

POLICE COURT.

Friday, 13th May.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ.
(ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE.)

A MARINE IN TROUBLE.

A marine from H.M.S. Hunter was convicted of stealing two flasks of whiskey from the Man Yuen, comradors shop, No. 24, Queen's Road East; and with assaulting one of the foks of the establishment. He was sentenced to 14 days for the theft, and fined \$10 for the assault.

NO LICENSE.

A Chinaman from Yaumati was fined \$100 for keeping a Chinese emigrant boarding-house without a license.

THEFT.

For stealing wood from Tai Kok Shipyard, Quarry Bay, a Chinaman was sentenced to seven days' hard labour.

BEFORE MR. J. H. KEMP (SECOND POLICE MAGISTRATE.)

REFUSING HIRE.

P.C., Devney, charged two ricksha-coolies with refusing hire. They were fined \$10 each.

PAVEMENT OBSTRUCTION.

An Indian constable charged a hawk with causing an obstruction on a City footpath by carrying paper there. It was raining at the time, the man said, and he did not want to get his paper wet. The case was remanded till the 20th inst. the defendant being released on putting up bail in the sum of \$1.

ILLEGAL OPIUM.

Three cases of illicit opium came on for hearing, the defendants being fined ten times the value of the amount of the drug found in their possession. The fines in all totalled about \$25.

UNLAWFUL DETENTION.

A man from Hunghom was sent to prison for one month for unlawfully detaining a girl under 14 years of age against the will of her guardian.

ASSAULT.

Mr. Thompson solicitor, appeared on behalf of a Chinaman charged with assaulting an Indian constable. The case was adjourned, defendant being released on \$40 bail.

CONCLUSIÓN.

The circumstance which instantly attracts our attention when making a survey of the tropics from the economic standpoint is that only in those countries which are colonies or dependencies of the Great Powers does there exist a condition of development bearing any appreciable relation to the resources of the land. Thus the independent States of tropical America and the kingdoms of Siam and Abyssinia—which are the only parts of the tropics which are not colonial dependencies—are prospectively unrestrained spaces, slightly chipped at the edges by coffee or rubber estates or by timber concessions. An examination of the economic position of all tropical colonies reveals a fact of the highest importance in regard to the labour conditions of those countries—namely, that, with the exception of Java, Barbados, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and India, where there is a pressure of population, there is not a single tropical colony of any commercial importance in which the work is not being done by imported labourers. In order to make this point quite clear I give a list of the colonies and protectorates in which labour supply consists wholly or partially of imported Chinese or East Indians.—British Guiana, Trinidad, Mauritius, Fiji, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, British North Borneo, Natal, Sarawak, Sumatra, and to these we may add Queensland, which gets its labour from the Pacific Islands; New Caledonia, which imports Annamites; and French Indo-China, where arrangements are now being made to import Chinese labour. There remain the colonies in Equatorial Africa, Dutch and French Guiana, New Guinea, the Philippines, and a few unimportant islands here and there, and there does not exist amongst them one of which it can be said that in relation to the capabilities of the land economic development has really commenced. The following figures illustrate the degree of economic progress which has been reached in the various countries to which reference has been made. Of the independent tropical States, Brazil exports per head of her population produce to the annual value of £1 10s.; Venezuela, £1 15s.; Guatemala, 15s.; Siam, 10s.; of the colonies in which there is a pressure of population, Java exports per head of her population 10s.; Puerto Rico, £1 15s.; Barbados, £4 15s.; and of the colonies employing imported labour, Hawaii exports £26 per head; Queensland, £18; the Federated Malay States, £8 10s.; Trinidad, £8 10s.; Mauritius, £8; British Guiana, £6; and Fiji, £4 10s. The average for the seven countries not employing imported labour is £1 13s. per head; of those employing imported labour, £11 7s. per head. I do not claim for these figures that they are more than approximately accurate; but the differences which they disclose are far too great to be materially affected by the small factor of error due to insufficient or faulty returns of trade and population. In order to emphasise the significance of these figures it may be noted that the value of exports, which gives no trustworthy measure of the economic development of non-tropical countries, affords a very accurate indication of the industry of tropical races. The altered application lies in this, that in countries where the standard of living is very high the trade of the home market is infinitely greater than the export trade, whereas, in countries with a very low standard of living the conditions are reversed. It is clear from what has gone before that, with the few exceptions named, there is not a single tropical country which possesses a local labour supply sufficient,

The necessity for special labour legislation in the Straits Settlements has arisen from the simple cause that the local labour supply is entirely inadequate for the purposes of agriculture and for the service of the public works of the municipalities. The chief importers of Indian labour have been the planters, and their dissatisfaction with past conditions has rested on two grounds—first, that the supply has been insufficient, and secondly, that under the existing labour laws they have been unjustly deprived of their labourers, who have been taken from them either by the planters of the Malay States, by the Governments of the Settlements and the States, or by the Government and municipal contractors. The question of initial supply is almost entirely one of the system of recruiting and of the rate of wages offered; and it is generally admitted that the former is extremely unsatisfactory and that the latter is too low in face of the rates paid in Ceylon and Burma, both of which countries draw their labour from India. But the fact is that a supply of labour which would be amply sufficient under a proper system of regulation after arrival would prove inadequate under the conditions which have hitherto prevailed. The new law provides for a considerable increase in the *minimum* legal wage of contract labourers, and the business of recruiting is handed over to a commercial company in Southern India on certain fixed terms and subject to the inspection of an official of the Straits Government, who will reside in India for six months each year. It is difficult to believe that a permanent solution of the recruiting problem will be found along these lines. As long as the supply of coolies is a matter of commercial speculation it is certain that abuses will arise in the methods of recruiting; and further, when a number of employers are competing in the same market a commercial company will always take advantage of the competition thus created to advance its own interests at the expense of its clients. The probabilities are that sooner or later the Governments of the Straits Settlements and the Malay States will find it necessary to adopt the system of recruiting which is used, with the most satisfactory results, by Trinidad and British Guiana. The Governments of these colonies maintain an Emigration Department in India under the control of an official whose duties are confined to the securing and forwarding of labourers. The Colonial Government makes all the arrangements and pays all the expenses up to the time when the labourers are handed over to the planter, and it secures itself against loss by making the repayment of immigration charges the first obligation on the planter's assets. Most of the planters in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States have had their training in British Guiana or in Ceylon, and in consequence the conditions under which Indian labour is imported into the Malay Peninsula resemble those prevailing in one or the other of these colonies.

As far as I could gather from conversations with employers of labour in the colony and in the Native States, a good deal of dissatisfaction still exists in regard to the local labour conditions. There seems to be a general feeling that if the Government undertook to import all the labour it needed for public works and ceased to compete with the planters in the open labour market the latter would be quite content to make their own arrangements for the importation of such labour as they might require without the concurrence of the Government. In concluding this article I cannot refrain from making some reference to the controversial aspects of the labour problem in the tropics. Both in England and America there exists a considerable body of opinion which is opposed to the employment of contract labour in the tropics. The chief argument advanced is that there is no need for it, since the natives can be educated to understand the dignity of labour, or, failing that, can be taught new wants, the gratification of which will call for steady work. When it is pointed out that universal experience has proved the utter futility of these conclusions, recourse is had to the old cry that "contract labour" is simply a polite name for "slavery." I am not concerned to deny that under a weak Government, or where there is not a conscientious Civil Service, contract labour may, by the existence of abuses, bear some resemblance to slavery; what I wish to maintain is that where there exist a strong Government, a good Immigration Law, and an efficient staff for the enforcement of its provisions, the contract labourer is more secure in the enjoyment of all his rights and privileges than he would be if he had not voluntarily entered into an agreement with an employer. Perhaps the most violent attack which has ever been made on the contract labour system was that undertaken by Sir George William Des Voeux when he was a magistrate in British Guiana. It resulted in the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry; and, if anyone is interested to observe how the most explicit and detailed assault to which the system of contract labour in the tropics has been subjected ended in an utter failure to substantiate any of the serious charges laid at the door of the planters, the magistrates, and the Government officials, I commend to him the report of the Des Voeux Commission of 1870, which contains some 1,600 pages of evidence on this very important subject.—*Times*.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—
On the 13th at 11.45 a.m. The barometer has risen in China and Japan and fallen slightly in the Philippines.
The northern depression, still moving eastward, is now situate in the Pacific to the east of Gusuin.
Gradients are moderate upon the China Coast and moderate N.E. winds may be expected in the Formosa Channel and moderate to light E. winds in the northern part of the China Sea.
Forecast:—Moderate E. winds, overcast, fair.

A COMPARISON

ENGLAND V. SCOTLAND.

The season's tournament has resulted thus:

SCOTLAND.—McBride (Preston North End (goal); Jackson (St. Mirren) and Watson (Stranraer) (backs); Aitken (Newcastle United), Raibeck (Liverpool), and Robertson (Glasgow Rangers) (half-backs); Nible (Aston Villa) and R. Walker (Heart of Midlothian) (right wing); A. Brown (Middlesbrough) (centre), R. C. (Newcastle United) and Templeton (Newcastle United) (left wing) (forwards).

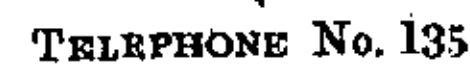
England has now scored ten victories to fifteen of Scotland, with a goal record of six five against seventy-four.

FAR EASTERN TRADE.

6 p.m.
Thursday—General Bible Class, 6 p.m.
Sunday—Prayer Meeting, at 6 p.m.

WEATHER

The silk ex the Boston Steamship Co. s.s. *Tremont* arrived in New York on the 4th inst.



THE FAMOUS BEER OF JAPAN.

THIS IS A

\$16.00 PER CASE OF 8 DOZEN PINTS

SOLE AGENTS

H. PRICE & CO.

12, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [4]

**TORTURING
DISFIGURING
—
Skin, Scalp and Blood
Humours**

**From Pimples to Scrofula
From Infancy to Age**

**Speedily Cured by Cuticura
When All Else Fails.**

The agonizing itching and burning of the skin, as in Eczema; the frightful scaling, as in psoriasis; the loss of hair, and crusting of the scalp, as in scalded head; the facial disfigurements, as in acne and ringworm; the awful suffering of infants, and anxiety of worried parents, will demand a remedy of such a high order of purity and strength as the superhuman virtues to success in fully cope with them. That Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent are such a remedy is proved by the fact that their efficacy stands proven beyond all doubt. The following statement is made regarding them: "I have been cured and satisfied by the strongest evidence. The purity and sweetness, the power to afford immediate relief, the certainty of speed and permanent cure, the absolute safety and permanent economy have made them the best of all skin cures. They have purified and humoured the pores of the civilized world."

Bathe the affected parts with hot water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle. Dry, without rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal the skin. Repeat the treatment several times, and, lastly, take Cuticura Resolvent, to cool and cleanse the blood. This economical local and constitutional treatment affords instant relief, permits rest and sleep in the severest forms of eczema, and other itching, burning and scaling humours of the skin, scalp and scalp, and points to a speedy, permanent and economical cure when all else fails.

Cuticura Resolvent, liquid and in the form of Chocolate Coated Pills, Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Soap sold throughout the world. Depots: London: 41 Chancery house St.; Paris: 4 Rue de la Paix; Australia: R. Towns Co., Sydney; Boston, 137 Columbus Ave. Potter Drug Chemical Corp. Sole Proprietors.

Send for "HOW TO CARE EYES" booklet. [6]

DR. NEWELL WILSON. DR. WILLIAM
DENTISTS

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in Latest American Methods.
Reasonable Fees.

No charge for examinations.

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31, QUEEN'S ROAD CENT
(First Floor Watkin's Building)

st. • Hongkong, 18th February, 1904.

[8]

ROBINSON PIANO Co. LD.

INVITE INSPECTION OF SOME
SPECIALLY FINE

SAMPLES OF
UPRIGHT PIANOS

BY
RACHALS.

STUART, & Co.

AND

BABY GRANDS

BY WINKELMANN

(ESTAB. 1837)

THEY ARE ONLY 5 FEET LONG,
OCCUPYING THE SPACE OF A
COTTAGE, BUT WITH THE FINE
APPEARANCE AND TONE OF A

FULL GRAND.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1901.

A SAFE REMEDY
FOR ALL
SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES

If you suffer from any disease due to an impure state of the blood, FRIDM WHATEVER CAUSE ARISING, you should test the value of Clarke's Blood Mixture, the world-famous Blood Purifier and Restorer. This medicine has 40 years' reputation, and is today more popular than ever, the reason of this being undoubtedly because this wonderful remedy does what it professes to do—IT CURES SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES PERMANENTLY.

Clarke's Blood Mixture

IS THE FINEST BLOOD PURIFIER
EVER DISCOVERED.

It is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For SCROFULA, SQUIRY, ECZEMA, BLOOD POISON, ULCERS, SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES, SORES OF ALL KINDS it is a safe and permanent remedy.

It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the cause from the Blood and Bones.

NOTE. This mixture is pleasant to the taste and is warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, from infancy to old age, and the Proprietors solicit sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it.

TRIED MANY THINGS WITHOUT BENEFIT
UNTIL I TOOK CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE.

Mr. F. E. Lewis, 48 Bridge Street Row, Chester, writes:—“Just a line in favour of ‘Clarke's Blood Mixture.’ I had eczema for seven months, and tried many things without benefit until I took your remedy. After the eighth bottle I was quite well again. Please accept this letter as a token of gratitude to your wonderful ‘Clarke's Blood Mixture.’—June 31, 1900.”

Sold by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World

ASK FOR...
CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE
and beware of worthless imitations and substitutes

COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.
have now 40,000 cubic feet of Ice, Storage available at EAST POINT. Stores will be open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily, Sundays excepted to receive and deliver perishable goods.
Wm. PARLANE, Manager.
Hongkong, 18th November, 1901.

LADGEN'S LUCK, (A STRANGE LOVE STORY), BY TOM GALLON.

(Author of "Tatterley," "The Mystery of John Pepper," &c.)

SYNOPSIS OF INSTALMENT I TO V.—Mr. Clement Frith, a Commission Agent, living in Kensington, finds himself in rather low water. His daughter Dora tries several means by which to make both ends meet, but does not succeed until she takes in a lodger, a wealthy gent man of the name of Lagden, and with an air of mystery about him. On his being taken in one day a doctor is summoned who tells them their lodger is past recovery. Lagden makes a will leaving Dora all his property providing she is willing to marry him at once. It appears that Frith gives his consent to this strange request before he has seen his daughter. After a conversation with the dying man, Dora refuses to marry him. At last her father persuades her to consent; a clergyman is called, and the ceremony performed. Lagden afterwards gives the girl a packet, which, she says, must not be opened until the rightful owner claims it. Later in the day, on looking into the man's room, Dora is astonished to find that he has disappeared. The next morning Frank Dorne, her former lover, who she thought had died abroad, calls. On hearing that Dora has been married only the day before, Frith's house, in the possession of Dora's father, Jane Noddy, the servant at Frith's, makes the acquaintance of Frank Dorne, who, while out one evening, contrives to get from the girl all the information he can concerning the man, Lagden. On their return, he feigns illness, and asks to be allowed to go into the house and rest. Jane is called out of the kitchen by her mother, and Dorne uses the opportunity to conceal himself, afterwards following Clement Frith upstairs. Frank Dorne determines, after hearing the story of the diamond, to see Dora again, thinking she may be in danger through his possession. He writes to her asking for an interview, but she declines his request. Jane Noddy finds his letter, and after reading it, goes to see him. The next morning she persuades Dora to go to Kensington Gardens, where she meets Frank, and he tells her of the discovery he has made concerning her marriage, asking her to let him have the diamond. She goes to bring it, but finds that it has been stolen.

CHAPTER VI.
MR. CLEMENT FRITH PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY.

It is always well to make excuses in this world, every man and every woman born into it has so much need of them. They may not always be plausible; but in charity we must make them so. And, in view of the subsequent events, we need a very large excuse indeed for the conduct of Mr. Clement Frith.

Mr. Clement Frith should, in a wiser scheme of things, have been a Turk. Not in any immoral sense, let us hasten to add; but rather in the sense of the popular idea, which would have depicted him in loose-flowing silken robes, cross-legged upon huge cushions, and with nothing to do the livelong day but smoke and smile. In that way, Mr. Clement Frith might have got through life very easily, and with much dignity. Fate designed that he should be a commission agent, with no commissions of any value, and a family to provide for. So that we must perform blame frute for the blunder.

Again, we have to remember that Mr. Frith had essentially a romantic mind. True, he did not care very much on whom the romance happened to press, or who was particularly inconvenient by it; his one thought was that he should stand aside, as it were, and foster it; and, if possible, profit by it. The latter point was distinctly imprudent.

To put it quite bluntly and plainly, Mr. Clement Frith had intrigued, in a somewhat sordid manner, regarding his daughter. He saw an old and battered man, apparently dying, that old and battered man, for some reason best known to himself, desired to marry the daughter of Mr. Clement Frith. Mr. Clement Frith, for his part, would have been outraged and insulted had anyone dared to suggest that the girl was sold for the sake of the family; yet, in his heart of hearts Mr. Clement Frith knew that that was the case. He was to benefit—the whole family was to benefit—all in some indefinite fashion; Mr. Frith hoped for the best.

Then, in a moment, came the disappearance of that strange bridegroom, and the discovery of the diamond he had left in the girl's keeping. It is to be feared that Mr. Clement Frith did not, perhaps, trouble his head about the sudden disappearance of that old man, for his mind clung itself to the fact that the owner of that diamond was gone, and that Dora—Mrs. Josiah Lagden—possessed it, by right of her marriage. The mind of Mr. Clement Frith was a subtle one, and he was able to excuse in himself acts which, on the part of another, he would have condemned vigorously.

"This man has, in a way," he thought, "betrayed the trust of a young and innocent girl. More than that, he has broken a distinct promise. No man has the right to promise that he will die by a certain hour, and to have that promise corroborated by a competent witness—and then to continue to live. It is obtaining things by false pretences. Ergo—I am fully entitled, on my side, to take advantage of that breach of confidence, and to make the best of what has unfortunately turned out not too well."

Perhaps Mr. Clement Frith was only too glad to find that his daughter was absent that day. He did not wish to account for things that might have needed a great deal of explaining. Explanations were troublesome, and Mr. Clement Frith might not have liked to encounter the look he knew he should meet in the eyes of Dora. Far better do these things first, and then account for them when the business was finished, he thought.

He reasoned and argued with himself all day long. In the first place, the fifty pounds which had been handed to him by Lagden was dwindling; some of the more pressing creditors had been silenced with small instalments, and he was safe for the moment. But the sudden disappearance of Lagden had upset all his plans; there was apparently no further fortune forthcoming, as had been promised, and the only available asset must be realised.

If it were a question merely of himself, said Mr. Clement Frith, tapping himself impressively on the breast—"I should not even think of such a thing; it would be outrageous to my nature. But once I forget for a moment my young and helpless family, can I forget the injunction laid upon me by their dying mother—that I would provide for them, at all costs? Impossible!"

Mr. Clement Frith quite forgot to remember that a certain brave little creature had toiled and slaved to keep him and them for years past; in moments of emotion, we are apt to be forgetful.

"Could I—if suddenly translated to another sphere, and brought face to face with my sainted wife that was—could I dare to tell her that I had forgotten all she said to me? And mark another point, she did not specify in any particular way I was to provide for them. And she alone so, it might have been better if we could she know that such a villain as I was would drop into our lap as it were? No, the thing must be done. Dora will be grateful when she knows that I have relieved our present necessities, and have, in fact, temporarily provided for the family."

Even that fine arguing could not quite convince his mind that he was doing right. More than once he went up to his daughter's room, opened the small drawer, and touched the thing lying hidden there, with stealthy fingers, more than once he came away hurriedly, afraid of

himself, and of what was in his mind. The pity of it was that he knew just what to do with it; just where to place it at all events for a time; just how best to raise money upon it.

Night came, and Dora had not returned. It was still comparatively early; but there seemed to be a fate in this—almost as though the opportunity had been given him, and he was not to be disturbed. He sat in the room wherein he conducted such fudle and small business as came to him, and pondered over the matter afresh.

The strange fortune which had attended the diamond through so many years clung to it still. It seemed as if there must be some curious fascination about it, which, when once a man's eyes had looked upon it, made it impossible for him to do anything but break a certain commandment concerning it. No matter what the danger, or what the apparent impossibility of getting rid of it, he must have it. And amongst those who were Mr. George Frith, eldest son of an unworthy father.

Following in the footsteps of that father, Mr. George Frith had felt it quite unnecessary to take to any honest work. He was not quite out of his teens, although he would be in a month or two; all that his small nature asked for had been provided for him by his hard-worked sister, in the little house in Diprose Square. More than that, for his sake she was always willing to have a few shillings ready to be wheeled out of her—shillings which went in small billiard-rooms, and third-rate music-halls—places in which the young man was much esteemed, as a gentleman at large. He had not her agents' respect, taken up various situations at different times; had been insulted, or put upon, by some imaginary person; and had, to use his own expression—"checked it"—and come home again.

It will be remembered that Mr. George Frith was in the house at the time of the marriage, and also at the time when the stone was discovered. Being the eldest son, the matter was mentioned to him, with bated breath, by his father. Dora—glad to lean on any support, however frail, at that time—had told him about it also. And his lazy imagination was fired. The thing was valuable; of that there could not be the slightest doubt. The man to whom it belonged was gone, and no one seemed to know quite what to do with it. Was it to be imagined for a moment that people were to support others (Mr. George Frith was firmly impressed with the idea that he did a great deal for his family); to toil with the sweat of their brows, as it were, and leave wealth of this kind littering about? Mr. George Frith, for the first time in his life, felt that he was going to do something great.

Thus it happened, on that evening when little Dora Frith walked homewards, happily enough, with her old lover, that the nervous eyes of three persons turned towards the stone. And it happened, also, that the first of those three persons was Mr. George Frith.

He got up to the room quite early. With no very definite idea in his mind as to what he was going to do, but with a sort of general feeling that he might be able "to raise a bit on it," he began his search. He opened a little mahogany box, wherein Dora kept those few girlish articles of jewellery that were her proudest possessions; a ring which had been her mother's; a brooch or two, given her in earlier and happier days; and a few other such trifles. The boy rudely pulled all these out, but failed to find what he wanted.

By the merest chance he lighted on the right spot. Pulling open the drawer, he plunged his hand in amongst the things heaped together in it, and felt round. He had almost reached it, had he but known, when he heard a stealthy step on the stairs outside.

It would never do for him to be found there. He looked hastily round for a temporary hiding place, in case anyone should be coming into that room; and saw what he sought. A tall wardrobe at one side of the room, reaching almost from floor to ceiling, did not quite touch the end of the wall between the side of the wardrobe and that wall was a narrow space, about eighteen inches or two feet square; into this he squeezed himself.

The stealthy step paused at the door, and then someone came into the room. Peering out, Mr. George Frith saw, somewhat to his surprise, that it was his father who had entered. Mr. Clement Frith carried a candle, and was humming faintly but jerkily to himself as he looked about. Even in that tremendous hour it was necessary that he should excuse himself for what he was going to do.

"A dainty room," he murmured, raising the candle and looking about him. "The abode of girlhood—of innocence; small childish treasures, unimportant in themselves, but all the world to her strewed about. One feels one's something sacred in such a place. But I wonder—"

His voice trailed off, and he started humming again—with intervals between, in this case, because his attention was deeply fixed on the contents of the room. Quite unconscious of his son's presence—who was watching him with starting eyes—Mr. Clement Frith walked across to the little dressing-table, and began opening boxes and peering about.

"If she happens to be carrying the thing about with her," he muttered, "I shall be sorry—very sorry. Highly dangerous; she might lose it—or it might be stolen. Ah—what is this?"

He had seen the opened drawer, with its tumbled contents, just as Mr. George Frith had been compelled to leave it, on retreating to his hiding place. With a cautious glance towards the door, Mr. Clement Frith set down the candle, and buried both hands in the contents of that particular drawer.

He brought the hands out with something in them. Mr. George Frith, from his corner, almost shrieked when he watched his father pull open the various wrappings, and saw that glittering thing lying in his hands. Some sound outside seemed to disturb him; he hurriedly buried the diamond into its wrappings, and put the little parcel into his breast.

"I—I'm glad she left it at home," he muttered. "Quite providential; if some really dishonest person had managed to get in here, the thing might have been lost." He happened, quite by chance, as he spoke, to glance towards the corner of the room where George stood hidden; and his look was a very severe one. He turned away the next moment; blew out the candle, and crept softly from the room.

Mr. George Frith, with rage and chagrin in his heart, followed him softly, after a moment or

two; saw him walking with a jaunty step down the next flight of stairs. So intent, in fact, was he upon the figure of his father, that he did not see that other figure of Mr. Jake Mealing, gliding out from a recess on the staircase, and following the pair of them.

"It looks as if I was going to 'ave me 'ands full,'" whispered Mr. Mealing to himself.

In that silent house it was possible for Mr. George Frith to act with apparent candour and earnestness; while Mr. Mealing, for his part, had to pursue a waiting policy. George snatched into the room, wherein his father stood slowly smoothing the nap of his hat, and thoughtfully gazing at it while he did so. He started a little guiltily as his son entered the room; but smiled, and nodded cheerfully a moment afterwards.

"Going out, dad?" asked George. "Bit late, isn't it?"

Mr. Mealing, with his ear against the crack of the door in the darkened passage outside, held his breath to listen.

"A stroll, my dear son—merely a stroll," said Mr. Clement Frith, and, "Nearer to the fact, that you know, the health, my boy—most important. Are you going to bed, George?"

"Yes—I think I shall turn in," said George, with a yawn. "Sleep's my mark—much better than strolling," he added.

"Perhaps you're right, my boy; every man to his tastes. Well—good-night, my son—God bless you!"

Mr. Clement Frith sauntered out into the streets. It was a fine night; and it was, of course, altogether an auspicious circumstance that an elderly man should be sauntering along that way, at that hour, apparently unmolested. Nor would any casual observer have taken any notice of two other figures which followed him, for each was unconscious of the presence of the other, or of his purpose. Mr. Jake Mealing was intent upon Clement Frith; the son intent upon his father. So they followed that sauntering figure, and never for a moment lost sight of it.

Mr. Clement Frith, for his part, turned towards a little, until the streets began to grow narrower and more sordid. Thus he came into the neighbourhood dignified by the title of Notting Dale, a neighbourhood in which let it be said, his life would not have been worth half an hour's purchase, had the value of what he carried been known. A neighbourhood of decent streets and small shops, where poverty rules shoulder with villany, and cannot help itself.

Still shadowed in that fashion, Mr. Clement Frith went on until he came to a small shop. Over this shop was the single name, "Piper"—and the legend—"Dealer in Curiosities." The shop was closed, and there was no sign of life about it, save for a dim light burning in an upper window. Mr. Clement Frith looked at about him for a moment; but the lurching, slouching figure on the other side of the road, whistling cheerily as it went along, meant nothing to him; nothing more, in fact, than that other figure of a well-dressed young man, apparently waiting for his sweetheart at the corner of the street. Mr. Clement Frith, evidently well acquainted with the place, pulled a hat attached to the side door, and waited patiently.

After a moment or two, the door was partially opened, and part of a face—that of an old sharp-featured man—was thrust round. It was evident, too, that the sharp-featured old man knew Mr. Clement Frith. After a word or two, the door was pushed to, and then opened fully; Mr. Frith went inside, and found himself in darkness and in silence, save for the asthmatic breathing of the old man.

"Well—what is it this time?" exclaimed Mr. Piper, a little huskily. "These are not the ordinary business hours, you know."

"My dear sir, this is not ordinary business," said Mr. Frith, in a low voice.

"Wait here a minute; I'll get a light," said the dealer; and shuffled away into the darkness. A moment or two afterwards, the faint glimmer of a candle shone at the end of the passage, and moved towards Mr. Clement Frith. Behind was the face of the man, shining out in ghastly fashion against the dead blackness of the place.

"I'll fasten the door, and then you can come in," he said, as he put up the rattling chain. "One has to be careful in this neighbourhood. Even a poverty-stricken old fellow like myself, Mr. Frith, they covet the little they think I've got." He thrust his lean face nearer to the other for a moment, and whispered, "They'd cut my throat—cheerfully—for the sake of the rubbish here. The fools think it's valuable."

Mr. Clement Frith's own face whitened a little, and he seemed to shiver, warm though the evening was, as he followed the other man down the passage, and into a room. To say that the room was furnished would be to give but a meagre description of it; it was literally crammed with treasures. Old carved tables and chairs were piled on each other almost to the ceiling; pieces of armour were littered about, old-fashioned pikes and swords stood heaped in corners. Every conceivable and inconceivable thing was littered about the place; and, in the midst of it all, on a little round table, was a mean supper of bread and cheese and a bottle of beer.

Mr. Piper was a little, shrivelled man, with hard, dark eyes set in a yellow face. On his untidy grey head was perched an old smoking-cap, which once had been gaily embroidered, but which now had lost most of its original pattern, and had but two or three untidy strands left in its once heavy tassel. A poor looking and grubby old man, with a double-fal-looking handkerchief twisted round his neck, and tied loosely in a sailor's knot.

"Glad to see you, Mr. Frith," he said. "You won't mind me finishing my supper?"

"Not at all—not at all, my good friend," said Mr. Clement Frith airily. "You need sustenance, my friend; yours is an arduous life."

"You may well say that," said the dealer, beginning to munch his bread and cheese.

"Just a living—a bare, precarious living—keeping the wolf from the door. Now and then, you know, a little bit of luck—just a little. But that's a very rare case."

"I have had some dealings with you, Piper, before this," said Mr. Clement Frith, seating himself in a high-backed chair which stood at one side of the little table. "Apart from temporary loans on domestic articles of small value, I have once or twice placed securities in your hands, on which you were able to advance money. Now I come to you again, on an alto-

gether different business. You are a judge of stones?"

The dealer shrugged his shoulders. "It depends," he replied. "One may always be cheated, you know—although I don't think they'd take me in easily. And there is always the risk."

His voice trailed off, and his knife fell with a clatter on to the plate before him. Mr. Clement Frith had slowly unwrapped the diamond, and it lay glittering on the table; and seemed, in fact, to fill the room for a moment with light. Mr. Piper leaned forward, with his hands clutching the edges of the table, and stared at it.

"Heavens!" he breathed at last, without taking his eyes from it—"where did you get it?"

Mr. Clement Frith gave a little contented laugh, and leaned back in his chair—careful, however, to have a hand on the table near to the diamond. "You may not believe it, Piper, but it was a gift. Where it came from, I do not know; suffice it that it is mine. What's it worth?"

Mr. Piper eagerly watched by Mr. Clement Frith took the stone into his hand; examined it in all directions, weighed it up and down in his hand, then glanced across at Clement Frith, and laughed softly in his throat.

"You want to know what it's worth?" he asked, with that enigmistic grin upon his face.

"Of course I do," said Mr. Frith impatiently. "If it were possible to take this stone into open market, my friend," said the dealer, in a low, impressive voice, "and match it, weight for weight, and size for size, and colour for colour, against other known stones, it would mean six figures—and big figures at that."

Mr. Clement Frith opened his mouth, and moistened his lips with his tongue. "Are—are you sure?" he asked.

Mr. Piper nodded. "Absolutely certain," he replied. "Only that's where the difficulty comes in. You don't get a stone like this without a history; you don't get a stone like this without what I may call a sort of pedigree—going right back. In a word, Mr. Frith (and I wouldn't be rude to a gentleman like you for the world)—this stone could not be in your possession, unless it had been stolen."

"Sir—how dare you?" began Clement Frith, feebly.

"But it is to yourself," said the dealer, with a grin and a shrug. "This thing is worth six figures; you're not worth sixpence. What do you want me to do?"

"I—I want money; I always want money," said Mr. Clement Frith, with a nervous hand beating on the table. "I am in your hands; what would you advise me to do?"

"Who knows of this?" asked Mr. Piper, after a pause.

"Myself; a man who has disappeared; and a young girl."

"There's only one thing you can do with it," said the dealer, weighing it again in his hand. "As it stands, it is utterly useless; there's no one you can approach with such a thing as this; it's quite unmarketable. It must be cut up."

"I begin to understand," said Mr. Frith faintly.

"Sent carefully to a man I know in Antwerp, it can be cut up; and even then, there's a fortune in it. The risk is enormous; apart from the value of the thing, there are not wanting those in London who would willingly cut the throats of such men as you and myself, for the sake of it. Did you come here alone?"

"My good man," said Mr. Clement Frith, with a superior smile, "I have taken every precaution. I came out for an evening stroll; no one has seen me, and certainly no one knows that I have the diamond in my possession."

"Good," said Mr. Piper. "Now suppose I undertake this risk, and send the stone, under safe escort, to Antwerp; there to be cut up; how do I stand? What share do I get?"

"Really, I hadn't thought—"

"But I had," said the dealer. "There's a fortune in it—and I claim two-thirds."

Mr. Clement Frith argued and unargued; but the dealer was firm. More than that, Mr. Frith saw that he had hopelessly compromised himself by giving away the fact of the existence of the stone, with a very bad grace, but yet with the feeling that he would be doing remarkably well out of the business, he consented.

"I must ask for some acknowledgment in writing—that you hold the diamond," he said at last. "And I must also request that you pay me some substantial sum down, until such time as you can dispose of the stone."

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"A substantial sum, Mr. Clement Frith, in your case, will be one hundred pounds—on the nod. Don't ask for more, because I shan't pay it," said Mr. Piper, going to a small safe which was let into the wall, and unlocking it.

Again, with a very bad grace, Mr. Clement Frith submitted to the arrangement. The stone, wrapped up as before, went into some hidden recess in the dealer's clothing; Mr. Clement Frith, richer by a little thin packet of bank notes, was let out into the summer night, and heard the door fastened behind him.

"How surprised the poor child will be, to find so valuable a diamond gone!" he mused as he strolled away. "And she would scarcely suspect her poor old father, I think!"

(To be continued.)

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will be despatched on above on TUESDAY, the
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Oriental Freight Department.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1904. [123]

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Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this
for Bombay, etc., on SATURDAY, the 21st
MAY, at Noon, taking passengers and
cargo for the above ports.

Silk and Valuables, all cargo for France, and
Tea for London (under arrangement) will be
transhipped at Colombo into a steamer proceed-
ing direct to Marseilles and London; other
cargo for London, etc., will be conveyed via
Bombay.

Parcels will be received at this Office until
4 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and
value of all packages are required.
Shippers are particularly requested to note
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Bills of Lading.

For further particulars, apply to
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NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

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THE Chartered H.A.L. Steamship
"THEODOR WILLE,"
Captain Krutzfeldt, having arrived from the
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counter-signature by the Undersigned and to
take immediate delivery of their Goods from
alongside.
Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before Noon,
To-day, the 11th inst.

Any Cargo impeding the discharge will be
landed into the Godowns of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited,
and stored at Consignees' risk and
expense.
No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 18th inst. will be subject
to rent.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to
be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 18th inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.
HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE,
Hongkong Office.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1904. [1234]

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"OLDENBURG,"
OF THE NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods, with the exception
of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being
landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and
Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence
delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M.,
To-day, the 11th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 18th inst. will be subject
to rent.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to
be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on Monday, the 16th inst., at 9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 21st
May, or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
Undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
MELCHERS & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 10th May, 1904. [5]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED,
AND
CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVI-
GATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"ULYSSES,"
are hereby notified that the Cargo is being
discharged into Craft, and/or landed at the
Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon
Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., where in both
cases it will be at Consignees' risk. The Cargo
will be ready for delivery from Craft or Godown
on and after the 11th inst.

Optional cargo will be landed, unless notice
has been given prior to steamer's arrival.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to
be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined at 11 A.M., on the 16th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods
remaining undelivered after the 16th inst., will
be subject to rent.
All Claims against the Steamer must be
presented to the Undersigned on or before the
19th inst., or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 9th May, 1904. [10-11]

BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "SHAWMUT,"
FROM SEATTLE, TACOMA, VICTORIA,
YOKOHAMA, KOBE AND MOI.
The above Steamer having arrived, Con-
signees of Cargo are hereby requested to
send in their Bills of Lading for counter-signa-
ture and to take immediate delivery of their
Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel
will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk
and expense.
No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in
any case whatever.

DODWELL & CO., LD.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 8th May, 1904. [7]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.
IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"SACHSEN,"
OF THE NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods, with the exception
of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being
landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and
Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence
delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before 11 A.M.,
To-day, the 12th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 18th inst. will be subject
to rent.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to
be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at
9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 23rd
inst., or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
Undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
MELCHERS & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 12th May, 1904. [5]

NOTICE TO KOWLOON RESIDENTS

EXTRA COPIES of Daily Press are on
sale daily at Mr. H. RUTTOJEE'S
KOWLOON STORE, No. 36, Elgin Road.
Price 15 cents per copy cash.
Hongkong, 22nd December, 1903.

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F. BLACKHEAD & CO.,
Sole Agents.
Hongkong 25th July, 1903. [5]

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Rot, and Dampness.

LUTGENS, EINSTAMANN & CO.,
Sole Agents for China.
Hongkong, 1st July, 1902. [280]

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mediate relief of neuralgia, spots, blotches, pains and swell-
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to employ mercury, iodo-potassium, &c., to the destruction of
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purifies the whole system through the blood, and thoroughly
eliminates every poisonous matter from the body.

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supply the safest and most convenient means
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of infected places, bedding, clothing, etc.,
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for any DEBT contracted by the Officers or
the Crew of the following Vessels during the
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